

Message Text

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41

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SCCT-01 DHA-02 IO-11 SSO-00

NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

AID-05 IGA-02 OMB-01 EUR-12 EA-07 /092 W

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O 061300Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3887

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 1914

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION NEW DELHI INFO BOMBAY, CALCUTTA AND
COLOMBO FROM MADRAS FEB 6, 1976 REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO

QUOTE

MADGAS 237

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IN

O

SUBJECT: LARGE SCALE ARRESTS CONTINUING

1. THERE HAVE BEEN ANOTHER 2800 ARRESTS IN TAMIL NADU SINCE
MID-DAY YESTERDAY

(FEBRUARY 5), BRINGING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF
PERSONS TAKEN INTO CUSTODY SINCE THE IMPOSITION OF PRESIDENT'S
RULE ON JANUARY 31 TO MORE THAN 10,000. OUR POLICE SOURCES
TELL US THAT, OF THOSE ROUNDED UP SINCE YESTERDAY, 97 ARE DMK
AND DK VILLAGE-LEVEL PARTY WORKERS, AND THE REMAINING 2700 EWLUS
ARE "ANTISOCPL ELEMENTS." KU
SAID ALL OF THESE ARRESTS TOOK
PLACE IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF THE STATE, IN THE AREAS OF
TIRUNELVELI, KANYAKUMARI, RAMANATHAPURAM. TANJORE, MADURAI,
AND TVIRUCHIGAPALLI (TRICHY). ACCORDING TO OUR POLICE CONTACTS,
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ADVISER P.K. DAVE HAS TOLD DISTRICT COLLECTORS AND DISTRICT

POLICE OFFICIALS TO REVIEW ALL ARRESTS AND TO START RELEASING
THOSE WHO ARE NOT LIKELY TO BE TROUBLEMAKERS.

2. COMMENT: WHATEVER

OTHER COMSIDERATIONS THE REPORTED DECISION
TO START

RELEASING SOME OF THOSE ARRESTED MAY INVOLVE, THE PHYSICAL
CAPACITY OF THE JAILS TO HOUSE

PEOPLE MUST BE ONE. ACCORD-

ING TO RELIABLE GOVERNMENT SOURCES, THE STATE HAS NORMAL JAIL
FACILITIES FOR 9,550 PERSONS, AND, AS OF JANUARY 31 (PRIOR TO
THE RECENT WAVE OF ARRESTS) THERE WERE ABOUT 5000 PERMANENT
RESIDENTS PF THESE JAILS. EVEN ALLOWING FOR SOME OVERCROWDING
AND USE OF SOME MAKESHIFT FACILITIES, THE ABILITY TO ACCOMMODATE
VERY MANY MORE WITHIN THE TAMIL NADU JAILS MUST BE REACHING ITS
OUTER LIMITS. SIGNED EAVES

UNQUOTE

SAXBE

NOTE BY OC/T: MESSAGE AS RECEIVED.

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04 MAY 2006

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